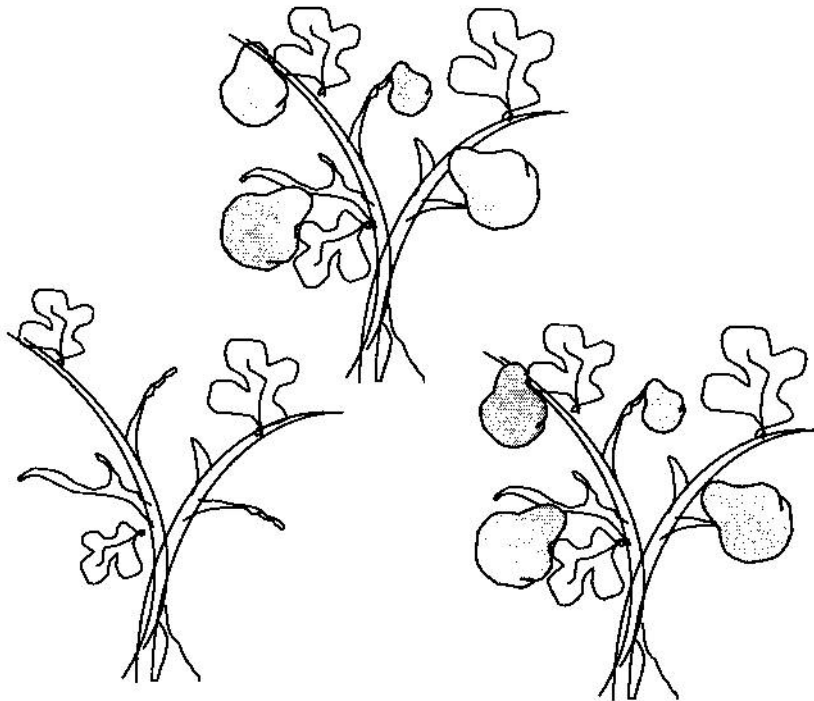


*Sunday, March 7, 2010, 8:30 a.m.*

*Third Sunday in Lent*

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting 4 with Holy Communion*

For three years, I have come looking for  
fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none."



"Sir, let it alone for one more year,  
until I dig around it. If it bears fruit  
next year, well and good.

**United Lutheran Mission Statement**

*"United by the grace of God's love, we come together to worship Him,  
to share His word with others and to reach out and care for those in need."*

**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010, 8:30 a.m.**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting #4 (with Holy Communion)**

Please complete a "Record of Attendance" from the "Welcome Folder"  
found at the ends of each pew, and place in the offering plate  
or give to one of the ushers.

◆ Congregation Stands      P = Pastor      A = Assistant      C = Congregation

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE**

*Asset-based thinking*

Where do you see abundance evident in your life today? Is this abundance something that is earned or freely given? What is the source of this abundance?

In Mark 6:30-44 there is an account of the feeding of the five thousand. A boy provides five loaves and two fish to feed thousands of people. This is a classic story of God's surprising abundance. It is also a story that focuses on the recognition of assets. You are probably familiar with the illustration of the glass filled to the midpoint—is the glass half-full or half-empty? It may be a cliché, but the half-full glass reminds us of all the assets given to us by a God of abundance.

Sometimes we are so convinced that we are little and poor that we almost believe that nonsense. We are not little and poor. We are not without resources. We are not unable to feed five thousand. Jesus did it. We can, too. Sometimes it is simply a matter of asset-based thinking—looking at the abundance (bread and fish) rather than the scarcity.

Sometimes people argue that Jesus didn't miraculously produce loaves and fishes out of thin air, that the people had more food in their pockets or travel bags and shared them when they saw the example of Jesus. Perhaps in some ways this would be even more miraculous than producing the food from thin air—getting people who are convinced they have nothing, to share the abundance they have—now, there's a miracle for you!

How easily do you recognize the assets of abundance when making decisions? What do you do with the assets you see? The example of a boy encourages us

*(continued next page)*

to share, and in doing so, we might even be part of a miracle.

*Prayer: O God of abundance. Open my eyes to your abundance in my life  
Show me the assets I have and let me willingly share these gifts with others.  
Amen.*

## **GATHERING**

### ◆ **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### ◆ **GATHERING SONG**

*“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”  
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal #609)*

### ◆ **THE GREETING**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

◆ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray

C **Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

**THE READING**

*Isaiah*

**55:1-9**

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.  
<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,

*(continued next page)*

call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts

A The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

◆ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

◆ **GOSPEL**

*Luke 13:1-9*

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

*(continued next page)*

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup>He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P This is the Gospel of our Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON "Why, Oh Why?"

*by Pastor Myron*

*Meyer*

◆ **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"*  
*(Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal #800)*

◆ **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,**

*(continued next page)*

**God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 of one Being with the Father;  
 through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation  
     he came down from heaven,  
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
 and became truly human.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again  
 in accordance with the scriptures;  
 he ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
 who has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

◆ **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

As Lutherans, we believe that our Lord is truly present in the bread and wine.

This

**Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

*Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that

*(continued next page)*

Sacramental Meal is open to all who are baptized and believe Christ is present.

For our  
a guide, if  
commune  
home  
you are  
commune  
For those  
an  
to wheat  
wafers,  
wafers  
available  
request.

we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble  
with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

visitors, as  
you  
at your  
church,  
welcome to  
with us.  
who need  
alternative  
flour  
gluten-free  
are  
upon

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
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◆ THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

*MEAL*

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

*Anthem "Wondrous Love"*

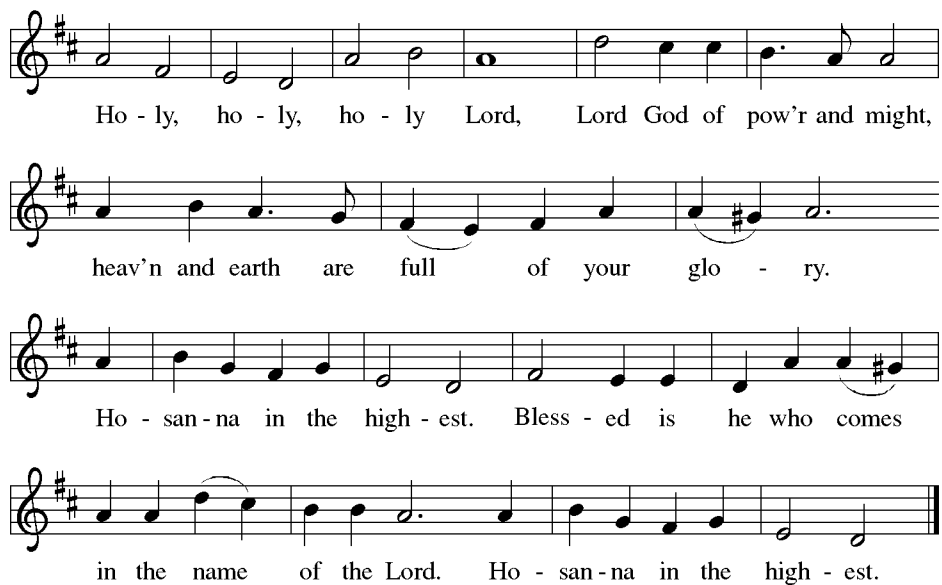
*Senior*

*Choir*

*(Southern folk hymn, arr. Marie Pooler, 1965)*

◆ OFFERTORY

*(continued next page)*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

◆ **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

◆ **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times  
 and in all places give thanks and praise. . . we praise your name and  
 join their unending hymn:

*(continued next page)*

◆ **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

*(continued next page)*

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

**P** O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P** Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P** With [name/s and] your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.

**C Amen.**

◆ **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**COMMUNION**

As Lutherans, we believe that our Lord is truly present in the bread and wine.  
This Sacramental Meal is open to all who are baptized and believe Christ is present.  
For our visitors, as a guide, if you commune at your home church, you are welcome to commune with us.  
For those who need an alternative to wheat flour wafers, gluten-free wafers and available upon request.

**HYMNS DURING COMMUNION**

*“Lamb of God”*

*Hymnal #623)*                    **“Rock of Ages”**                    *(Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

*Hymnal #342)*                    **“There in God’s Garden**                    *(Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

◆ **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Let us pray...O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

***SENDING***

◆ **BENEDICTION**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

◆ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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